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Achaemenides and of the Sassanians was a center of the world's very highest civilization, playing in the cultural development of all the lands about her a part whose importance we are only just beginning to understand.

C. W. BISHOP

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE FAR EAST

J. O. P. BLAND. *China, Japan, and Korea*. x and 327 pp.; ill., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1921. \$5.00. 9 x 6 inches.

Mr. Bland's former residence and practical experience in the Far East and his wide official acquaintance entitle him to serious hearing. His book is divided into two parts, the first being a political survey and the second a series of chapters entitled "Studies and Impressions." The political and social life of the people of the Far East is in many respects closely interwoven with the physical circumstances of the region, a point of view which was developed in a scholarly and convincing manner in the January number of the *Geographical Review* ("The Geographical Factor in the Development of Chinese Civilization," by Carl Whiting Bishop, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 12, 1922, pp. 19-41). We find ample evidence of this throughout Mr. Bland's book, particularly in the portions that deal with the density of population and the fine shades of adjustment which may be observed as the population, particularly of China and Japan, steadily increases, making the food supply a more intense question and bringing into play modern political and social forces of deep importance.

The second half of Mr. Bland's book is most delightfully written. He is never a dull writer, but in the later chapters the style rises to a very high level of literary perfection without at any time losing the quality of restraint that bespeaks judgment and integrity. In the field of political geography there are few contributions but rather the reaffirmation of points of view and of facts made familiar through western writings on oriental policies and practices during the past ten years.

One marked effect of the overcrowding of China, in the view of Mr. Bland, is the widespread desire to better living conditions; and this desire has steadily molded the character of the Chinese people through many centuries. Thus there is perpetual striving to raise one's self above the common level. Men of ambition seek power in order that they may gather to themselves forces and revenues that free them from the bondage of the soil or the shop and give them a standing comparable to that of the foreigner in the treaty ports. In Young China the author finds no saving grace, believing that the teachings of liberalism among the pupils of missionaries and colleges founded by foreign associations are quite superficial and that the blundering of the Tutchuns and the divisions of the past decade represent a constant force in Chinese life. To him there seems no way to escape but through a powerful government—if necessary a restoration of the Manchu Dynasty—and the holding of the great mass of the people and the local governors in a strong grasp. He believes that to let democracy come in is to open the door to disintegrating influences and bribery in a more extreme form than it has existed in China during the whole period of foreign domination.

The case of the crowded population in the homeland of Japan is argued skillfully and carefully, and an important and necessary distinction is drawn between two forms of expansion by Japan, one form being an actual movement of population overseas as a result of the crowding at home, and the other a kind of economic penetration which is equally efficient in relieving pressure because the flow of capital into a new region may control the labor of the region and its output of raw materials, thus fostering industry at home and providing additional support or better support for the crowding millions.

One is tempted to say of Mr. Bland's conclusions that he is too ruthless a logician. It can be almost demonstrated that every new cause is a failure—until it has achieved a state of pronounced success! A thousand visible and invisible forces fight a new idea. Moreover, the followers of the new (as well as the old) always include a large number of foolish persons and "optimists *de métier*," as Mr. Bland happily phrases it. We must recognize, however, that this is a changing world and that the force of new ideas cannot be measured in terms of old customs and characteristics. Finally, it may be said with assurance that it is not the masses of the people, to whom Mr. Bland refers political and social doctrines at every turn, that have ever controlled the fate of revolutionary changes. The mass of the people is inert, neutral, and lacking in initiative. In all lands and times

the great changes have been brought about by the will of a determined minority who have succeeded in the long run because their policies and ideas have been sound with respect to the tendencies of a whole people.

#### GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY OF CENTRAL CÉLÈBES

E. C. ABENDANON. *Voyages géologiques et géographiques à travers la Célèbes Centrale (1909-1910)*. Vol. 1, xxvii and 443 pp.; diagrs., ill.; Vol. 2, xv and pp. 445-969; maps, diagrs., ill.; Vol. 3, xxii and pp. 971-1548; contributions of G. F. Dollfus, G. J. Hinde, J. H. Kruimel, S. J. Vermaes, and M. Weber, maps, ill.; Atlas, with the collaboration of J. J. Lefèvre, W. Schiebel, Raden Mas Amad, A. Raven, and W. F. Pandeij; sheets 1-12, 12B, 13-16. Publ. by the Royal Geographical Society of the Netherlands with the collaboration of the Ministry of the Colonies. E. J. Brill, Leyden, 1916-18. 11 x 8 inches. Atlas, 22 x 15 inches.

Of the numerous islands of the Malay Archipelago perhaps none is so interesting as the island of Celebes. Ever since the great English naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace made known to the scientific world more than sixty years ago the results of his observations, this island has been classical ground for the zoögeographer and naturalist. On the basis of his faunal studies he established what is known as the "Wallace line" which extends through the Strait of Macassar from north to south between Borneo and Celebes and which is supposed to be the dividing line between the Oriental and the Australian faunal regions. The controversy which followed this generalization had at least one beneficial effect in that it stimulated other naturalists to explore the island of Celebes more closely. The result is a vast amount of international literature bearing on this subject.

The establishment of the "Wallace line" involved the geological deduction that, during relatively recent geologic time, Celebes had belonged to the Australian continent, whereas Borneo had been part of the continent of Asia. But years elapsed before geologists participated in the discussion in the light of their own investigations on the ground. As a matter of fact, more or less systematic geological studies have been made only during the last twenty or perhaps thirty years. The names of Martin, Wichmann, Bücking, and the brothers Sarasin are worthy of mention as pioneers in this respect. During the last ten years, however, a change for the better has set in and, of late, very important geological work has been done by such men as Wanner, Ahlburg, Hirschi, Hotz, Gogarten, and especially by the Dutch mining engineer and geologist Abendanon. The results of his latest expedition, made in 1909-1910, have been published in the work under review, comprising three magnificent volumes with numerous text figures and beautiful plates, besides an atlas of maps and profiles.

The work deals particularly with the geology and geomorphology of the central part of the island; only scant and scattered reference is made to the response of human life to its particular environment as we now are wont to define geography. The first two volumes give a detailed description of the preparation for and the daily progress of the expedition which had as its main object a geologic and topographic reconnaissance of the region. The third volume summarizes the results achieved in their bearing on general problems. It includes reports from various specialists on the material collected on the trip, such as contributions on the paleontology by G. J. Hinde and G. F. Dollfus, on fresh-water molluscs by H. J. Kruimel, on fresh-water fishes by M. Weber, and on some phases of the economic geology by S. J. Vermaes.

According to Abendanon the following elements, in addition to the coastal plains, can be recognized in the configuration of central Celebes:

1. A highly folded and faulted Pre-Cambrian gneiss-granite-schist complex in the central part.

All of it formed, during early Paleozoic time, part of a vast continent "Aequinoctia" (see E. C. Abendanon: *Aequinoctia, an Old Paleozoic Continent*, *Jour. of Geol.*, Vol. 27, 1919, pp. 562-578) and has since undergone submergence, upheaval, and peneplanation. Recent crustal movements have produced a network of *graben* and horsts. One of the major depressions is the Posso *graben*, some 75 kilometers long in a north to south direction, part of which is now occupied by a beautiful lake of that name. Another *graben* is the Fossa Sarasina—the Sarasin trough—to the west of the former. It is composed of a series of minor troughs in a north to south direction together about 100 kilometers long. Frequent earthquakes indicate that the crustal equilibrium in this part has not yet been established.